

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2013 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman David Canada, Selectmen Bruno Federico and Tim Copeland, and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine.

At 7:10 pm, Mr. Canada opened the meeting and then moved to go into non-public session to discuss a matter that could affect the reputation of another, not a member of the Board. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:30 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the matters discussed. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:33 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$7,671,128.87 in the general checking account.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland moved to approve the minutes as written from the regular meeting on 7/29/13. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Highway Agent Colin Laverty, Chief John Scippa and resident Jeff Comeau were present at the meeting to discuss the cutting back of trees on Long Hill Road with the Board. Mr. Laverty stated that the way the road intersects, it is very difficult to see when approaching the intersection with Long Hill when on Gifford Farm Road. Mr. Laverty recommended installing a three way stop sign at the intersection and pruning back the corner of Mr. Comeau's bushes rather than the straight removal of all of his arborvitae and then reevaluate. Mr. Scippa agreed with Mr. Laverty's recommendation. Mr. Comeau stated that he would be willing to work with the Town and pay for the trimming, but he is not asking the Town to prune the trees; he will get it done on his own. Mr. Comeau did agree that the three way stop sign is a great idea. Mr. Copeland and Mr. Federico expressed a concern of the Town having to do annual maintenance. Mr. Comeau stated they do not have to be done annually, maybe every five to seven years, to which Mr. Laverty agreed. Mr. Comeau received a quote from Urban Tree Service for approximately \$950. Mr. Canada moved to have the Town make the intersection of Long Hill Road and Gifford Farm Road a three way stop, that Mr. Comeau contract with Urban Tree Service at his expense to trim back the junipers and arborvitae so there is a minimum sight distance of 125', and to have Mr. Laverty supervise the work to see that it is done to the Town's satisfaction. If this does not work, then they will need to reevaluate the situation. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PARKS & RECREATION: Director Seth Hickey was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities.

Mr. Hickey updated the Board on Stratham Hill Park. He stated the field conditions have been very good. He stated the ice skating area continues to be a work in progress. The trail signage project has been completed and he has submitted all receipts to the State for reimbursement. Mr. Hickey stated the Fair cleanup has been done. He stated the new gate that was recently installed sustained a little bit of damage, but it is still operational.

The group discussed an invoice for the fire suppression system in the Park Food Shack and how it is going to be paid. The Fair paid the invoice some time ago and is looking for partial reimbursement based on a sharing of costs formula developed last year. However, responsibilities for operational versus capital costs were not clear. Additionally, the Town formula called for a 95/5% split at the Food Shack; the Fair billed at a 80/20 rate based on their unilateral changes to the formula presented by the Town. Mr. Hickey recommended having a meeting with the Board and the Fair Directors on this matter and will contact them to schedule a date.

Mr. Hickey stated there were some other concerns regarding clean up after the Fair in that there was some black and gray water that was discharged from the RV's that were parked on the front lawn of the Park. Park Ranger Kim Woods was present at the meeting and stated she did speak to Vicky Avery, one of the Fair Directors, about this matter and she is going to draft a letter to the carnival company to have them address this issue and also request \$500 to cover the cost to the Town for cleaning it up. It was agreed that a \$1000 bond would be required next year if RVs were to be permitted to park at the Park.

Mr. Hickey stated the summer sports camp at Stevens Park has wrapped up and the fields now have a chance to rest before soccer starts up.

He stated the tennis courts were resurfaced last month and he is very happy with the outcome.

Mr. Hickey then updated the Board on current programs and activities.

The Board commended Mr. Hickey on the thought that goes into programming and the great success he has been having.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Town Planner Lincoln Daley was present at the meeting to discuss a proposal from GPI to conduct engineering studies associated with the Town's pending Transportation Enhancement Grant application with NH DOT. A critical point in this process is to determine whether the Town has enough land area to fit everything that we planned to do. Mr. Daley stated that the scope of work and the funds associated with that will not be expended until the Town has final confirmation that we were selected. Mr. Deschaine stated the final proposal from GPI is \$21,700. The Town would spend \$80,000 plus the \$21,700 for \$320,000 worth of services. Mr. Canada moved to authorize Mr. Deschaine to sign the contract with GPI once DOT has confirmed that the Town has been accepted for the grant. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Daley stated there is a program available that provides low cost loans for the construction design of infrastructure, in the Town's case, a sewer system. He stated he has submitted an application to NH DES and the Town was selected to receive one of these loans. This provides another tool for the Town to use down the road if we choose to move forward with construction projects regarding sewer.

MEETINGS: The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and reviewed the meetings held this past week.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

The following Park permits and Municipal Center rentals were discussed and acted upon:

Lauren Wood requested the use of the Park on August 22, 2013 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Robert Law requested the use of the Municipal Center on September 14, 2013 for a birthday party. Mr. Federico moved to allow the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Wendy King requested the use of the Park on August 10, 2013 for an anniversary party. The request was approved.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated he is waiting to hear back from Hartmann Oil regarding an estimate to replace the boiler at the Firehouse.

Mr. Deschaine requested to take vacation days on August 15th and 16th. The Board had no objection.

The group then went back to the discussion held earlier with Mr. Hickey regarding the Stratham 76'ers' request to promote their organization on the Town's website. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request and to have Executive Assistant Stacey Grella monitor and post their requests with a link on the Parks & Recreation page on a monthly basis. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:08 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant